A new deal for vector diagrams

Dear Sir—I am honoured by the confidence Mr. Hopkins (October 1964 *E & P*, p. 361) places in me in proposing me as chairman of a committee on vector diagrams, but is it unworthy of me to suspect an ulterior motive, for the chairman is the one who must not press his own views? And mine clearly differ fundamentally from those of Mr. Hopkins.

Perhaps he may be more amenable to mine if I assure him that with my system the problem that, he says, bedevils the teaching of a.c. theory just does not arise. So there is no need for me to discuss it. Further, I could not support his preferred version of Kirchhoff's voltage law, because it is not only less simple and elegant than the other but it necessitates a foolproof and agreed criterion for recognising an e.m.f. This does not at present appear to exist, and the BSI is as confused as anybody about it.

The simpler version of Kirchhoff's voltage law also has a perfect dual in the current law, as explained by Mr. C. E. Newton in the August 1964 *E & P*, p. 279.

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